

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 111047  
ORIGIN ARA-14

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S E C R E T STATE 111047

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XR, PEPR, PDIP

SUBJECT: ARA WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS - APRIL 19-26/78

1. SECRETARY'S TRIP TO MEXICO - THE BUREAU IS HEAVILY ENGAGED IN PREPARATIONS FOR SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT TO MEXICO MAY 3-5. THE VISIT IS TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE U.S.-MEXICAN CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM. IN ADDITION TO AMBASSADOR TODMAN AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHELTON, THE VANCE PARTY WILL INCLUDE THE CHAIRMEN OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC WORKING GROUPS. AMONG THE VARIOUS ISSUES TO BE TAKEN UP ARE ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION, NARCOTICS, AND ENERGY.

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF CANAL TREATIES - WITH SENATE

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ACTION ON THE CANAL TREATIES COMPLETED, ATTENTION NOW TURNS TO CONSIDERATION OF AN EARLY EXCHANGE OF INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION, WHOSE EFFECTIVE DATE CANNOT BE PRIOR TO MARCH 31, 1979, ACCORDING TO THE BROOKE RESERVATION TO THE SENATE RESOLUTION OF RATIFICATION. THE SO-CALLED LEADERSHIP RESERVATION, REITERATING THE COMMITMENT OF THE U.S. TO THE POLICY OF

NON-INTERVENTION, WAS CRUCIAL IN GAINING PANAMANIAN ACCEPTANCE OF THE TREATY. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THIS WEEK THAT A U.S.-PANAMANIAN RESOLUTION MARKING FINAL ACTION ON THE TREATIES WOULD NOT BE SUBMITTED TO THE OAS PRIOR TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT THE END OF JUNE.

3. GUYANA ELECTRIC POWER CRISIS - GEORGETOWN HAS BEEN EXPERIENCING SEVERE ELECTRIC POWER PROBLEMS SINCE ITS MAIN POWER STATION STOPPED FUNCTIONING APRIL 2. THE POWER CRISIS HAS CURTAILED WATER SUPPLY AND HOSPITAL OPERATIONS AND CLOSED DOWN MANY INDUSTRIES. AMBASSADOR BURKE DECLARED IT A DISASTER ON APRIL 17. CANADIAN AND BRITISH TECHNICIANS ARE NOW IN GEORGETOWN TRYING TO REPAIR THE POWER STATIONS. WE HAVE SENT A DEFENSE ASSESSMENT TEAM TO REVIEW THE SITUATION AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO WAYS WE CAN PROVIDE ASSISTANCE THROUGH AID'S OFFICE OF DISASTER ASSISTANCE. VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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Declassified/Released  
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